



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

March 23, 2010

**Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D. 
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **REVISED REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PHYSICIAN
SERVICES FOR INDIGENTS PROGRAM (PSIP)**

On February 16, 2010, your Board authorized the Interim Director of Health Services (DHS) to reduce the initial reimbursement rate for PSIP to 18% of the Official County Fee Schedule (OCFS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 and offer revised emergency physician services agreements for FY 2009-10 to eligible non-County physicians providing emergency services at non-County emergency hospitals. In addition, your Board instructed DHS to rapidly pay the backlog of frozen claims; and to report progress weekly until the backlog is gone.

PSIP ENROLLMENT AND CLAIMS PROCESSING CURRENT STATUS

Following Board approval of the FY 2009-10 reimbursement rate on February 16, 2010, the enrollment packets were updated and made available to all eligible physicians on February 17, 2010. Physicians can now submit claims for dates of service beginning in July 2009. Since the program requires that providers attempt to identify other sources of payment for 90 days prior to billing the County, services provided during the last 90 days are not yet billable to the program. The Emergency Medical Services Agency is working with the County's contracted claims adjudicator, American Insurance Administrators (AIA), to expedite the enrollment process. Generally, the first claims are received 30-60 days from the beginning of the enrollment period. As of March 19, 2010, 1,329 providers have enrolled and 29,778 claims have been received, with new claims coming in daily. Of these claims, 11,542 have been paid. We are currently processing the remaining claims for expeditious payment. The next payment cycle for all validated claims will be completed next week.

REVIEW OF THE PSIP PROGRAM POLICIES

The EMS Director discussed the PSIP Program and the impact of the recent reimbursement rate reduction at the Emergency Medical Services Commission's March 17, 2010 meeting. The Commission has indicated that it will issue its comments to the Board after reviewing the draft of the first status report to be completed by the Auditor Controller's Office in May 2010.

I will keep you informed about the ongoing enrollment and claims payment process. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me or Carol Meyer, Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

JFS:cc
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c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office
Auditor-Controller
Emergency Medical Services Commission
Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission